(HPCL), 4 belonging to Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and 6 belonging to IBP Co. Limited.

(b) Domestic enquiries were initiated against various categories of employees in the public sector oil companies, under this Ministry, during the last two years, i.e. 1998-99 and 1999-2000, as indicated below;—

IOC	—	264	ONGC	—	89
HPCL	—	119	OIL	—	55
BPCL	—	231	GAIL	—	03
BP	—	12	CPCU(MRL)	—	03
Biecco Lawrie	—	12	KRL(CRL)	—	09
BRPL	—	07			

(c) Out of 1,115 enquiries completed in the public sector oil companies, under this Ministry, during the last three years, i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000,127 employees were awarded penalty equivalent to dismissal from service.

Customs **duty on** cyclosporin Drug

*233. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased
to state:

(a) whether cyclosporin, a drug used by kidney transplant is imported at a concessional customs duty of 15 per cent when the normal customs duty on all life saving drugs manufactured in the country is 35 per cent;

(b) whether this very drug is manufactured in the country with the same specifications and quality standards and at comparable cost with enough production capacity to meet domestic demand; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to raise the customs duty on import of cyclosporin to the level of 35 per cent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Cyclosporin attracts concessional basic customs duty of 15 per cent. However, all life saving drugs are not chargeable to basic customs duty of 35 per cent. Some specified life saving drugs are exempt from customs duty whereas others attract basic customs duty of 15 per cent, 25 per cent or 35 per cent.

(b) Cyclosporin is manufactured in the country. It has been claimed by the domestic manufacturers that there is enough domestic capacity to meet the demand and that domestically produced drugs meet the international specifications and quality standards.

{c) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

Telephone system in rural areas by private companies

*234. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had given the responsibility to the private companies to set up telephone system in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, when the final decision had been taken in this regard;

(c) whether a time bound target was fixed at the time of taking the decision;

(d) if so, the details of the said lime bound targets which were given to each of the above companies; and

(e) whether Government have ascertained any information with regard to the achievement of targets and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Government had awarded the licences to six private companies to set up telephone system for providing the basic telephone services in their respective licensed Telecom Circles which included the rural areas also viz. M/s Bhani Telenet Ltd in Madhya Pradesh, M/s Tata Teleservices **Ltd.** in Andhra Pradesh, M/s Reliance Telecom Private Ltd. in Gujarat, M/s Hughes Tele.com (India) Ltd. in Maharashtra, M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd. in Punjab and M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd. in Rajasthan.

(b) The effective date of these licences was 30.9.1997 except for M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd. for which it was 4.3.1998.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The details of their time bound committed targets for provision of Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) and Village Public Telephones (VPTs) alongwith information ascertained from them with regard to achievement of these targets is enclosed as statements I and II respectively.